

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, and 11-15 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 11, and 14 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 11, and 14 are amended to clarify the invention, and claims 9 and 10 are sought to be canceled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page two of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 5-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,054,334 to Ma (herein "Ma"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ma does not describe each and every element as set forth in amended independent claims 1, 11, and 14. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1 and 14 recite in part "said fuse corner pad having first and second edges that define said corner of the integrated circuit." Further, Applicants' claim 11 recites "said fuse corner pad includes first and second edges that define a corner of the semiconductor die." Ma does not appear to describe a fuse corner pad including first and second edges that define a corner of either the integrated circuit or the semiconductor die, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1, 11, and 14. Instead, the figures in Ma only illustrate pads located near a single side of a silicon substrate. (*See* Ma, figs. 1-11; col. 3, ln 65-66.) For example, pad 8 in FIG. 8 of Ma clearly does not have edges that define a corner

of the IC 2 since there is clearly open substrate between the pad and the corner. (*See* Ma, fig 8) Thus, Ma does not describe each and every element as set forth in independent claims 1, 11, and 14, and therefore does not anticipate the mentioned independent claims.

Accordingly, Ma does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' independent claims 1, 11, and 14 and therefore does not anticipate claims 1, 11, and 14. Dependent claims 2, 5-8, and 12-13 depend from their respective independent claims 1, 11, and 14 and therefore are also distinguishable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above, in addition to their own patentable features. Claims 9-10 have been canceled rendering their rejection moot. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page six of the Office Action, claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request this rejection be removed and this claim be passed to allowance.

Dependent claims 3-4 depend upon independent claim 1. No references have been cited that cure the deficiencies of Ma mentioned above. Accordingly, claims 3-4 are allowable for at least being dependent from an allowable independent claim, in addition to their own respective features. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

Other Matters

Applicants assert that the amended independent claims 1, 11, and 14 and their respective dependent claims are allowable over MacPherson (U.S. Pat No. 6,348,742) that was cited in earlier office actions for reasons similar to that mentioned above in relation to Ma. More specifically, the bond pads in MacPherson do not define a corner of the semiconductor die or IC, as recited in Applicants' claims.

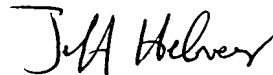
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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